(b) to (d). According to the policy of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, major spares are always purchased from Original Equipment Manufacturers or from their sole selling agents and only from the registered and proven suppliers. In emergent cases, CIL/subsidiaries also have ancillary industries for supply of spare parts.

When spare parts are purchased from OEMs, CIL insists on their issuing certificates to the effect that prices charged are the same as are being charged from other customers, and are not excessive. From other manufacturers, the parts are purchased on rates approved by the DGS & D Some manufacturers in the public sector who are not covered by DGS & D and are also not OEMs, appear to be charging higher prices and CIL has initiated a dialogue with them to determine the reasonableness of their prices. For imported spares, the prices are determined according to a conversion factor, the formula for which is laid down by DGSD.

As CIL spares are purchased only from OEMs, proven parties and also from ancillary parties after proper tests, question of buying sub-standard spares does not anse. In case defects are noticed, suppliers are informed for replacement free of cost. However, such cases are not many.

[*English*]

Coal Stockyard in Karnataka

3439. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a coal stockyard at Hunsur, Mysore to provide coal supply to tobacco growers; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to set up a coal stockyard there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No coal stockyard is being operated by Coal India Ltd. at Hunsur, Mysore.

(b) According to the current Stockyard Policy, responsibility for setting up and managing new stockyards rests with the respective State Governments Coal Companies will offer coal for despatch to these stockyards in accordance with the sponsorships provided by the State Governments

Desalination Plant

2440. DR. R. MALLU Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) whether desalination is proposed to be promoted in Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the cost of producing 1 litre of water by the desalination plants, and

(d) the type of power used in these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H PATEL): (a) Desalination plants for drinking water supply in rural areas are set up only as a last resort when cost effective alternative schemes based on sweet sources are not feasible. The setting up of desalination plants in Eighth Five Year Plan will be considered after the finalisation of the Eighth Plan outlays/strategy and evaluation of the effectiveness of the desalination plants set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan and in 1990-91 and 1991-92.

(b) does not arise.

(c) The cost of producing drinking water